

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Robert C. McFarlane
The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: National Space Strategy

1. We received Bill Clark's 4 October memo on National Space Strategy. The memorandum raised a number of questions which Mr. Casey and I discussed with Bill on 12 October. We received a brief follow-up note from Bill (signed by RADM Poindexter) dated 14 October. The purpose of this memorandum is to convey the essence of that conversation and our continuing concerns to you.

2. Subsequent to the SIG(Space) decision to defer a space strategy report to the Fall time frame, the IG(Space) agreed to a methodology to complete the report that is entirely different from that described in the memorandum. The IG(Space) agreed to have a working group draft a report based on existing Agency responses [redacted]. The IG(Space) agreed that in reviewing this report, it would refer any issues requiring an NSDD process to the SIG(Space) for deliberation and subsequent action. [redacted]

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3. We agree that decisions internal to the individual studies and activities referenced may impact the use of space by the DCI, Defense, and NASA. Of those listed, only the Manned Space Station study (NSSD 5-83) has been completed to the point of Agency decision deliberations. The other ongoing studies and activities will not be completed for a period of several weeks or months. It is, therefore, not clear how we can make recommendations regarding them, or how a space strategy with significant reference to these incomplete studies and activities will assist the President's decision process. [redacted]

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4. The memo also indicates that upon receipt of the information requested from the agencies, a National Space Strategy and direction to the Executive Branch concerning Space priorities, budgets, and organizations will be prepared for the President. The memo does not describe the process to be used to determine what is required or how the decisions will be formulated. The role of the SIG(Space) and member agencies is undefined. Considering the potential major impact on NFIP programs, budget, and organizations, we believe that the process must be described and determined in advance of our response. While we appreciate the assurances to Mr. Casey of the last

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sentence of the 14 October note, we feel that a regular SIG (Space) process should be employed to review and coordinate the basic strategy document and any NSDDs prior to their going to the President. [redacted]

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5. We should appreciate your clarification of these areas of concern in order that our response can focus most productively on the request for information. [redacted]

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*Not signed per
attached note*

John N. McMahon
Acting Director

*from
DDCI*

cc: Secretary of Defense

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Subject: National Space Strategy

Distribution:

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

(S)/20 October 1983

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